

Notice of Allowability

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/520,484	ZHANG, WEI
	Examiner Phil Wiest	Art Unit 3761

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 7/26/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-32.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 15-32 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
2. The amendment to the claims requires that pulse waves are generated that originate within the extracorporeal blood circuit. The prior art (Spickermann, US 6,736,789) discloses a similar system and method comprising a sensor 46' that measures the propagation rate or transit time of *pulses that originate in the body*. Spickermann does not disclose a means for measuring the propagation rate or transit time of waves that are generated *within the extracorporeal circuit*. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to relocate the sensor because Spickermann discloses that the sensor must be located upstream of the pump (Column 6, Lines 28-32) so that pulse waves may be measured. Placing the sensor downstream of the pump would prevent the sensor from detecting pulse waves. Spickermann clearly anticipates only that transit time is measured from pulse waves *from the heart*, and therefore also teaches that a second sensor 29 is used to monitor heartbeat on the fingertip of a patient in order to determine the time at which the pulse waves are generated within the body. However, this type of measurement is not perfectly accurate because it the transit time of the pulse wave from the heart to the fingertip is not taken into account.

3. Conversely, applicant discloses a sensor that detects the propagation rate and transit time of a pulse wave that is generated *within the extracorporeal circuit*, such that a heartbeat sensor is not required. The pulse waves are generated by a pump in the extracorporeal circuit. Therefore, the time at which the pulse waves are generated may be easily determined based on the position of the pump (see applicant's specification [0019]). This drastically improves the accuracy of the system because the pulse waves are generated locally and at constant intervals.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

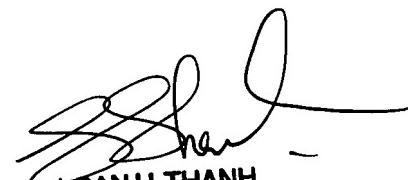
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phil Wiest whose telephone number is (571) 272-3235. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm EST. °

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, LoAn Thanh can be reached on (571) 272-4966. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

PRW
9/26/07



LOAN H. THANH
PRIMARY EXAMINER